TO ALL The CLOTHIERS OF ENGLAND.

The STATE *of the* DIFFERENCE *between the* CLOTHIERS *and the* CITY *of* LONDON.

Taking notice of a Printed Paper in form of a Petition, said to be presented to the Honourable House of Commons, much complaining against an Act of Common Council lately made by the City of *London*, For *Regulating the Markets of* Blackwell-Hall, *and* Leaden-Hall: do upon an impartial Survey and Consideration of each, look upon the *Clothiers* to be much abused and seduced into the said Complaints by some evil Instruments between them and the City, who labour to make a Difference where none was, or can be, if rightly understood: and having vizzorded their own contemptible Interest (under the *Clothiers* Name) to carry on their private designes, to the manifest Injury both of the Citizen and Clothier.

The matters complained of are chiefly three;

First, *The Restraining their Clothes to lye 20. dayes in the Market, except Sold.*

Secondly, *The Raising the Duty of Hallage: And a new Imposition of a Duty for the Lying of their Goods.*

Thirdly, *The Requiring of their Factors to be Approved and Admitted by the Lord Maior and Court of Aldermen, and to enter into a Recognizance of 200 l. that they shall not Buy in, nor Sell out of the Markets any of those Commodities they are Factors in.*

I shall not meddle with the Cities indubitable Right to make Lawes, for Conservation of their own Priviledges and Customes; nor Discourse the Legality of this particular Act of Common-Councel, being out of my Sphere, and already done by Learned Councel before the Reverend Judges of His Majesties Court of Common Pleas: But only argue the reasonablenesse of it from grounds of Common Benefit and Advantage to the *Clothiers* themselves, That it may appear (as is alledged) that the *Clothiers* are abused into this Complaint. And

First, *As to the Restraining their Clothes to lye 20 dayes in the Market, except sold.*

Answ. A *Clothier* bringing his Goods to *London* to be sold: It will not by any rational Man be presumed, that he brought them so many score Miles with Intent to remove them out of the Market till he had tryed it for their Sale two or three Market dayes at the least: and therefore the City could not imagine they did the *Clothier* any wrong by letting his Cloth lye in a publique Market ready for Sale, with so good Accommodations (that no Citizen of *London* hath the like) for 20 dayes: They only intending by that Clause,

1. *To abate the Rigour of former Acts of Common Councel, which injoynes the lying of their Goods in the Market till they were ſold: which though much more ſevere, yet neither then, or ſince (till now) was it either counted a grievance by the Clothier, or never complained of as ſuch: Yet the City in Tenderneſſe to the Clothier, by this Act, thought a convenient time of 20 dayes more fitting to be Inſerted; that might in ſome meaſure obviate the Abuſes done to the City on the one hand, and be a Benefit and Advantage to the Clothier on the other.*

2. *That Forraign Buying and Selling might the better be prevented, which by preſent Removing of Goods out of the Markets have been ſold to Forraigners and Aliens,* Dutch, French, Germans, *and other Nations, in private places and Warehouſes, without all poſſibility of Diſcovery, to the almoſt Ruine of the Cities Franchiſes, and great Diſcouragement and almoſt Deſtruction of Trade in the hands of our own* Engliſh *Merchants. And beſides, ſuch private and Clandeſtine Sales have given the greateſt Countenance to the making of ſuch bad and deceitful Cloth, to the general diſrepute of our Manufacture in Forreign parts; and raiſing the Credit, and much advancing the Trade of Forreign-made-Cloth: which in time may have a dangerous tendency to the utter overthrowing of our Engliſh Trade, and putting of it into the hands of Aliens and Forraigners.*

3. *For the Clothiers good, That he may have the Benefit of the publique Market, and not have his Goods removed into Holes and Corners to gratifie the private deſigns of his ſubtile Factors; oft proving to the Clothiers Hinderance, by undervaluing Sales; or to his Hazzard, by Sales to Irreſponſible perſons: Having no Check upon his Factor as he hath in the publique Market, by the Regiſters that the Act orders to be kept of all Goods brought in, ſold, and to whom.*

Theſe being the ends of the 20 dayes, how can their Accompliſhment (if the time were ſtrictly ſtood upon, which is not) be any Greivance or Inconveniency to the *Clothier*? Conſidering

1. *There is no penalty Annexed by the Act upon any Clothiers Removal of his Goods before the 20. dayes are expired, and their Printed Petition is miſtaken that affirms there is.*

2. *There Goods lyes in a publique Market, where they are expos'd to Sale three dayes in every Week, to all perſons that come into the Halls.*

3. *They have Security for their Goods all that time, if they ſhould be ſtollen, or the Markets broke open, or any way miſcarry: and no place in* London *will afford the ſame.*

4. *They have moſt neat Accommodations for the laying up of their Goods, better cannot be in any private Houſe, or Warehouſe whatſoever.*

5. *They are much more ſafe from all Hazzards and dangers of Fire then any Factors Houſe or Warehouſe can be.*

6. *They pay nothing for all this for three Weeks time (the City intending to take off for the lying for the latter 14. dayes, as well as for the firſt Week.)*

And now I do believe: That there is not an Ingenious *Clothier* but will acknowledge, That there is never a Market or Fair in *England*, or in the three Nations, that affords them ſo much of Conveniency and Safety upon ſuch cheap and eaſie terms as he enjoyes the ſame within the Markets of the City of *London*.

If the *Clothier* objects, *Why may he not ſell his Goods in any place of* London, *if he ſhall ſee Cauſe?*

I will only give this ſhort Anſwer, That ſuch a Permiſſion were not only Irrational in it ſelf, but a palpable Invaſion of the Freeman's Right, (and here by the way take notice of that equal Juſtice, that hath been ever us'd in the Cities Markets) aſwell as a priviledging of the Forraigner to more then the Freeman hath a Right to, or can claim. All the publique Markets of the City are for the Forraigners uſe: and no Freeman (as ſuch) ought to Invade the Forraigners Right by ſelling there. All the reſt of the City, (the Houſes, Shops, and Warehouſes of *London*) are the Freemens-Market, Now there is the ſame reaſon, That the Forraigners ſhould not Invade this Right: So that by keeping theſe diſtinct, they cannot be hurtful each to other. But to admit a *Clothier* to Sell in, and out of the Markets too, is to priviledge him beyond a Freeman, who hath power of Sales only in the latter. And thus I ſhall diſmiſſe this firſt Complaint: As to the

Second, *The Raiſing the Duty of Hallage, and new Impoſing a Duty for Lying.*

Anſw. I think the falſitie of this Clamour beſt Confuted by ſetting down in two diſtinct Collumns the Ancient and Preſent Rates, both for the one and the other; with ſome Obſervations upon them: that ſo by an Impartial Comparing the one with the other, and weighing the Lengths, values of Goods, Times then, and now; a Right Judgement may be had of the thing, and the notorious abuſing of the City in this unjuſt Charge, more palpably diſcovered.

Old

Old Rates for Hallage.

1576. By Act of Common Counſel, 18. *Eliz.* All *Long-Coxall*, *Long-Suffolke*, and *Long-Glensford* Clothes ſhall pay —— 2 *d.*

1612. By another Act of Common Counſel, 10 *Jac.* Every Long-Cloth of *Coxal*, *Glensford*, and *Suffolke*, or any other ſort of 30. yards long and upwards, ſhall pay —— 2 *d.*

All under ſhall pay —— 1 *d.*

Mancheſter-Packs —— 8 *d.*

Welſh-Packs paid —— 8 *d.*

Devon-Packs paid —— 9 *d.*

Devon Bays the piece paid- 1 *d. ob.*

Perpetuanaes and Sayes paid 1 *d.*

Serges of all ſorts the piece paid 1 *d.*

Kerſies were to pay thus, *viz.* 1 Kerſie 1 *d.* 2 Kerſie 1 *d.* 3 Kerſie 1 *d.* 4 Kerſies 2 *d.* and ſo on to 7 Kerſies 2 *d.* 8 Kerſies 3 *d.* and ſo on to 10 Kerſies 3 *d.* And ſo the reſt in this proportion.

Dutch Bays the peice paid 1 *d. ob.*

Bayes of all ſorts, except *Dutch*, *Devon*, and *Quinco*-Bayes (but including all *Wiltſhire* & *Dorſetſhire* Bayes) for each piece —— 2 *d.*

Worſted-ſtockings the 20 paire paid —— 2 *d.*

Woollen Stockings for every two dozen paid —— 1 *d.*

New Rates for Hallage.

All Broad-Clothes of what kind or name ſoever, exceeding 30 yards long —— 2 *d.*

All above 20 yards, not exceeding 30 yards long —— 1 *d.* ½

All of 20 yards long and under —— 1 *d.*

Mancheſter Packs —— 10 *d.*

The ſame.

Now no rate by the Pack.

† Now *Devon*-Bayes pays —— 1 *d.*

The ſame.

The ſame.

All Kerſies, white, dyed, or mixt, if dozens —— *ob.*

If above 12 yards —— 1 *d.*

The ſame.

All *Wiltſhire*, and *Dorſetſhire* Bayes payes now —— 1 *d.*

All *Eſſex*, *Suffolk* Bayes -- 2 *d.*

The ſame.

The ſame.

Obſerve,

That by the Statue of 5. and 6. *E.* 6. no kind of Broad-Cloth was to exceed 30 yards. So then by the Act of Common Counſel, 18. *Eliz.* they were to pay —— 2 *d.*

Now by the new Act but —— 1 *d. ob.*

By the Statute of 4. *Jac.* no Broad-Clothes were to exceed 33 yards moſt to be under 30 yards; yet by the Act of Common-Councel, 10. *Jac.* all of 30 yards were to pay —— 2 *d.*

Now except above 30 —— 1 *d. ob.*

Note, That Broads are gen rally made now from 30 to 44 yards, & yet pay but 1 *d. ob.* or 2 *d.*

† *Note*, ⅓ abated

Note, here's half abated.

Old Rates for Lying.

1576. By the Act of 18. *Elizabeth*, Every Horſpack of *Devon* Kerſies, ſhall pay weekly ſo long as they remain unſold —— 6 *d.*

All Peniſtons and Northern dozens to pay for every ſingle piece weekly —— *ob.*

All *Hampſhire* and Northern Kerſies after the rate of every ſcore weekly —— 6 *d.*

All Broad-Clothes after a months lying over and above their uſual Hallage, ſhall pay for every Cloth weekly —— 1 *d.*

Every 3 Kerſies beſides their firſt Hallage, after a months lying ſhall pay for every week during their remaining there —— 1 *d.*

New Rates for Lying.

It is Enacted, That for all Clothes and other Commodities lying ſtill in the Markets, Hallage ſhall be weekly paid, after the firſt week half ſo much as was the rate of the firſt Hallage.

So then by this Rate

All Clothes, except above 30 yards long, pay but —— ½

If above 30 yards long, though 45 yards, as ſome are, but -- 1 *d.*

Three Kerſies, if dozens, now pay but —— ½

Obſerve.

1. This Duty for Lying, is no Innovation, having been above 86 years.
2. The Clothier or his Agent, hath beyond memory conſtantly paid it, as will be proved.
3. Though in the Act of Com. Councel, 18 *Eliz.* for ſeveral things therein for which a weekly duty is required for Lying; ther's no Hallage at firſt pitching; yet if the rates be well conſidered, the rates will come to more for lying only, then what is required by this new Act for hallage & lying.

By

By all which it appears, that the difference between the old and the new rates for Hallage is little other then in form, the new being more abreviated and succinct, taking things in more by their lengths, then names, which is the surer and more equall way, and so the rates will be found to be rather lessened then augmented; and as to the duty it self, it is consonant and agreeable to Toll taken in all Fairs and Markets, and is lesse then is taken in any Fair or Market in *England*, (though their Goods be pitched in open places without any shelter from weather, as here) and is no more then every Freeman of *London* payes for that he buys, by pre-contract in the Country, or receives in Custome from any Clothier, who hath no benefit (or can have) of selling his Goods in the publick Markets as the Clothier hath, and therefore hath more reason to be agrieved at the Duty then he.

[*Note.*]

And as to the Duty for Lying, it is so equall and just a thing that no Ingenious Clothier can complain of it as a burden, when the ensuing benefits he reaps by the same, are seriously weighed and considered: as,

1. *He hath his Goods lye in a publick Market, and not thrust into a private Corner, as was partly hinted before.*

2. *He hath security not only for 20 dayes, but so long as they continue there, so that for a penny, he hath 20 or 30 l. value oftentimes secur'd to him.*

3. *He hath conveniency of stowage in the Hall private to himself or his Factor (besides his Market place) with Pile Benches, Tables, and other fitting accommodations, all made and maintained to his hand, at the Cities charge.*

4. *He hath the Halls, Markets, and Ware-houses, constantly repaired, which costs great sums yearly, together with Sallaries for Officers to attend the Markets, and to Register and look after his goods; all likewise at the Cities charge.*

5. *He hath freedome to ease himself of the charge when he will (without giving warning as is required in all other places of the City) by sale or removall of his Goods; he paying little when he hath little, more when he hath much, nothing when he hath nothing; his payments alwayes bearing proportion to what he hath, and what can be more just and equall? Any of which Priviledges no Freeman of* London *enjoyes, and the least of which is of more worth to the Clothier, then what he payes for all; To all which let me subjoin (though not so properly under this head)*

6. *If the Clothier should remove his Goods to his Factors house, the very Porteridge to and fro, will cost him more then a fortnights lying in the Hall, and yet can enjoy none of those priviledges in his house that he doth in the Markets.*

And now let any indifferent man judge whether any thing can be hard upon the Clothier in these respects? and whether he hath not a full pennyworth for his penny? Or whether any Fair or Market in *England*, can or doth afford him the like accommodations and advantages as he here injoyes for such petty and inconsiderable values as he here pays. I confesse I am not apt to think that any Ingenious Clothier whatever should boggle at these petty payments wherein he reaps so reall a benefit, and is to so noble, Christian, and Charitable a use as it goes to (when all charges are born) when in other things, for lesse advantages (and often for reall mischiefs) he shall be so generous as to Cram his Factors pockets with Hundreds by the year. But I shall spare that Generation for the sake of some among them, that I believe are as just and as honest dealing-men as lives by bread, and as true to their principles as their own sons and meniall Servants could be; and so shall dismisse this Second Complaint. Their next is;

Thirdly, *The requiring their Factors to be approved and admitted by the Lord Maior and Court of Aldermen, and to enter into a Recognizance of* 200 l. *&c.*

Ans. This, this is that which hath made all this Rattle, and strongly to be suspected hath occasioned all the other Complaints, we never hearing any thing of the Factors zeal for the Clothier in respect of the other, till he was prest upon this. And here I would be rightly understood, that what I shall have occasion in the carrying on of this discourse to speak concerning Factors in generall, not to mean those Factors whose peaceable and obedient spirits carried them on to a just and ready submission to the City in what was required of them, who deserve a fair and honourable mention; But those who have been the Incendiaries, thus causelessly to inflame the Clothier against the City, the better to carry on their own By-ends to the prejudice of both. Nor shall I here defend the Cities Legall Right to what is required (that more properly belonging to another hand) but shew the requisiteneese and absolute necessity of it in respect of the Clothiers interest only.

As to that of the Lord Mayors and Court of Aldermens approving and admitting of who shall be constant Factors or Broakers (for in that notion I must now take them) in any of their publique Markets; I shall give these few Reasons for it.

1. *It*

1. *It hath been the constant practice and custome of the City (time out of mind) to allow and admit of persons that make bargains between man and man, and these men must not think that because of late years they have assumed to themselves the more Gentile-name of* Factors, *therefore the Cities priviledges, and the Common good thereby, must by that means be so easily evaded and avoided.*

2. *That their Illimited Numbers may be abated, and room made for the honest Clothier to sell his own goods in, if he hath a mind to it; the Factors of late years, by their great increase and taking of Apprentices to increase more, have quite justled out the Clothier from the Market, for whom it was primarily Intended; or else making him stand by as a useless un-concerned Hanger by, while he sells his Goods to whom he pleases, and then receives a reward and Sallary for abusing him.*

3. *To see that they be persons of honest fame and responsible condition, as the better to secure the trust the Clothier reposes in them; so in regard of that security, the City gives the Clothier for his Goods, in the Case of Theft or any miscarriage (as before is hinted) It not being fit that every person that pretends himself a Factor should have opportunity fraudulently to convey away other mens Goods, that the City may afterwards pay for.*

4. *The City being the proper Judges of any Nusances arising in their Markets, finding by long experience both the Factors increase and miscarriage (in making the publique Market his own private shop to sell his own goods in) to be such both to Buyer and Seller; takes upon them to approve of those that stand or break between man and man; that the Market may not be Huckstered and Forestalled, but kept Indifferent between Clothier and Citizen.*

5. *Factory, or Broakery in it self being no Trade, are not Subject to any Rules or Regulations of perticular Societies and Companies as Trades are, otherwise then by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen; therefore they ought to have a perticular inspection over their persons and wayes, to see they do nothing in the excercize of that feat, by combination and confederacies among themselves to the setting of the Market, raising or lowering of the Commodities, to the prejudice of the Subject in General, or of the perticular Buyers and Sellers of those Commodities.*

Now as to their being required to enter into a Recognizance of 200 l. &c.

Anſ. Here take notice of the Condition of this Recognizance, which is nothing else but that he shall not buy in, or sell out of the Market any of the Commodities that he is a Factor in, and that during so long time (only) that he shall continue a Factor,

Hence Note,

1. That the Clothier is no way concerned in the Condition of this Recognizance, this not relating to the Factor as he is the Clothiers Servant, nor restraining him in any thing that is properly the Clothiers Service. His Service being only to sell his Goods in the Market (out of the Market the Clothier ought not to sell himself within the City) which notwithstanding his Recognizance, he is left free to do.

2. That from what the Recognizance restrains him, is only from exercising a By-Trade of his own in those Commodities wherein he is the Clothiers Servant; and if this be not common Justice, the world must seek out new-Rules to shape commerce by; there being nothing more common between man and man, then if a man imploys a servant to bind him up from dealing in those Commodities (himself) wherein he is his servant; and oft-times from dealing in any thing else: that so his Servants time and head may be more occupied in his Masters business, then otherwise by driving severall Intrests it can be: If this were not, it were impossible to carry on any Trade or Dealing in the Kingdome out of our own hands, the many continuall undiscovered Cheats would be so rife upon the Imployers, that they could never otherwise be prevented, then by tying up their Factors from using a By-Trade in those Commodities that they are Servants in: for want of which restraint upon the Factors, all those many secret and undoing-mischiefs that hath peel'd the Clothier to nothing, hath flowed in upon him, and he knew not what to impute his undoing too; certainly had this been done, the honest Industrious Clothier had found better Markets, better payments, better accompts, better customers, surer debts, better dealing in every kind then of late (since their Factors have been Traders for themselves) they have had; the continuance of the Factors By-Trade (except Factors be Saints) must necessarily draw upon the Clothier these and many other inconveniencies,

1. *The Clothier can never have the true benefit of his Market; as for Instance, A Clothier sends up half a dozen or more of Clothes to his Factor in* London *to sell for his best advantage: His Factor liking them well, and knowing their request, either buyes them all himself, or else culls out the best Colours, and Clothes among them, leaving the refuse to run the hazzard of an uncertain Market, to the Clothiers no small losse, he thinking in the Countrey that he hath 2 or 300 Chapmen looking upon his Goods in the Market, hath indeed only his own single Factor; whose By-Trade hath prompted him, in stead of making the best Market for the Clothier, to make the best Market of the Clothier.*

2. *As a conſequent of this, this By-trading-Factor, makes the Clothier pay Factorage for the miſchief he hath done him, for thoſe very Goods he hath bought himſelf; and in this ſenſe, can truely be ſaid to under-buy any man living; no man having that priviledge but himſelf.*

3. *He can create a neceſſity upon the Clothier when he pleaſes, by keeping his Clothes unexpoſed from Sale, and ſo in want of moneys, that (if their Rates be ſet higher then he would have them) he may the better make his own Markets of them, and have his Goods at his own price, the eaſier to carry on his own private Trade.*

4. *He can bring what Debts and Loſſes he will upon the Clothier, if the Factor hath ſold off any Clothiers Goods out of the Market (which before he had taken to his own Accompt) if the Chapman proves bad or Inſolvent, then that's the Clothiers debt; But if good, the Clothier never hears on't, though the Cloth be ſold for never ſo much profit; ſo that the Clothier ſtands only to the Loſing Trade, his Factor to the Getting.*

5. *The Factor in Deſign often keeps the Clothier Ignorant of his Cuſtomer to whom he ſells his Goods, it may be for a double end; But I'le inſtance only in one, to make him the more to depend upon himſelf, that ſo all Goods that come to the City, may come through the Factors hands, that thereby they may have opportunities the better to drive the Markets for the benefit of their private Trade.*

It were endleſſe to innumerate the conſtant flux of evils that the Factors buying and ſelling beyond the Clothiers imployment will and hath occaſioned, but the Clothier knows and feels enough of them, but knows not how to help himſelf; theſe are Greivances indeed upon the Clothier, and yet ſome of theſe are petty things, to what the Clothier finds; had not his Factor had a By-Trade of buying and ſelling for himſelf, as well as for him, he might have got many Hundred pounds into his own purſe, which is now crept into his Factor's. Whence is it, that the Clothier (of late years) hath grown poor and the Factor grown rich? The Maſter declined, and the Servant hath thriv'd? Is't in the Sallary of 3, 4, 5. *s. per* Cloth that he hath paid to the Factor for ſelling his Goods? No, no it's the By-Trade, the Trade of the Clothier, not for the Clothier that hath done the Deed, theſe have been like Moaths in his Cloth, that hath eaten him and his Clothes thread-bare: And yet now that the Clothier may be ſecured againſt theſe, and the apparent miſchiefs that theſe have brought, is all the hurt the City hath done them, by taking this Recognizance of their Factors, that they ſhall not buy in, or ſell out of the Markets, any of the Commodities that they are Factors for; and in this narrow Compaſſe is the Quarrell between the Clothier and the City brought, I mean what appears; The true Quarrel being only between the Factor and the City, for the Clothiers good, as well as their own: from the Clothier, the City hath rather deſerved their thanks, then their complaint, and beleive from the moſt Ingenious of them would find it.

There may be as much reaſon given from the Cities concernments, why the Factor ſhould be reſtrained from his By-Trade: (elſe the Markets will be overthrown as to the City, no man can buy Goods, but through the Factors Grate, or after he hath made his choiſe and cull'd the Market, or at ſecond hand; and this being a notable encouragement for a few Factors to joyn together, and to ingroſſe the beſt of the Manufacture unto themſelves, and thereby ſpoil the Trade of the reſt of the Citizens of *London*:) But I ſuppoſe theſe and many more inconveniencies that will attend the Citizen in the Market, will be of leſſer regard to the Clothier, then his own Intereſt, therefore ſhall forbear to ſay more of it, except provoked by a further occaſion. And truly all this diſcourſe I have managed more as an *Engliſh-man* then a Citizen (which I confeſſe I am) regarding more the Clothiers Intereſt then the Cities, though cannot eye one without the other they are ſo twiſted and link'd together, and well knowing the City hath and ever had a tender regard of the Clothier, and of his concernments, and have been alwayes, and ſtill are, ready to deny themſelves in ſome of their own priviledges for their encouragement and accommodation, and will upon any addreſſe made unto them (which yet was never done by any one Clothier (that ever I heard of) ſince the Act was made) be ready to redreſſe any thing that may be found in that, or in any thing elſe to be unreaſonable or hard upon them, and therefore (in Relation to this very Act) dare in behalf of the City, promiſe the Clothier theſe three things:

1. *That notwithſtanding the expreſſion in the Act of their Goods lying in the Market 20 dayes, except ſold; that there's none of their Clothes, that either by wet in coming to Town, or by other Caſualties ſhall be unfitted for Sale; But they ſhall have them out at their pleaſures, to fit and dreſſe up for the Market.*

2. *Or if any Clothier having Goods in the Market, would take up moneys upon them for the ſupplying his preſent occaſions, He ſhall have liberty to take them forth, to make them ſecurity to any one that he ſhall borrow money on. Provided theſe be not uſed as Artifices to evade the Cities Franchizes by private ſelling them out of the Market to Forraigners and Strangers.* And further,

3. *If the Clothier deſires it, they ſhall have liberty granted them upon any one of the three dayes, that are not by the Act appointed Market dayes in every Week, for the ſpace of a whole Forenoon freely to*

come

come into any of the ſaid Market places, to See, Count, or lay up their Clothes unſold, the better to make up, and even their Accompts with their Reſpective Factors; or any thing elſe, that may be for the diſpatch, or Accomodation of their Affairs.

And now whether it be the Hoſpitall-pence, or the Factors pounds, got by his By-Trade, that wrings, and is a reall Grievance to the Clothier, I leave it to Impartiall men to judge; with this one conſideration (for a Concluſion) to be duely weighed by every ingenious Clothier, which may ſerve as a demonſtration to the verity of what hath been ſaid; The vaſt and great eſtates that are got by a ſort of men crept in between them and the Buyers of their Commodities, which is all dreyned out of the Trade by the By, and which muſt be felt by ſome body; and were there but the bare conſideration of their great numbers of late years Multiplyed, and continually encreaſing by the Apprentices they take, though they were all of plain and honeſt dealiug, yet the very maintainance of them and their ſeveral Families (for they are not kept with a ſmall matter) muſt needs beget a charge upon the Manufacture, that if it do not inhaunce the price to the Buyers, yet muſt certainly go out of the Clothiers profit; and ſo doth neceſſarily call for the leſſening of their Numbers, if not Quallifying of their perſons.

D. S.

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